(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are considering more stringent steps to curb tobacco consumption; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Rules notified under Tobacco control legislation enacted in 2003 discourages consumption of tobacco in the country through various measures which includes;

(i) Prohibition of smoking in a public place;

(ii) Prohibition of direct and indirect advertisement;

(iii) Prohibition of sale of tobacco products to minors;

(iv) Prohibition of sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of educational institutions;

(v) Depiction of pictorial warning indicating ill effects of Tobacco Product for educating the masses.

The State Governments are the implementing agencies, and they are being repeatedly impressed upon to effectively enforce the provisions of the Act/Rules framed thereunder.

(c) and (d) National Tobacco Control Programme has been launched for effective enforcement of the tobacco control legislation with a focus on;

(i) building awareness about ill effects of tobacco at the community level.

(ii) Building enforcement capacity of the State Governments.

Adulteration in food items

†2677. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures suggested to check adulteration in food items;

(b) the measures taken to compensate the loss of lives and properties suffered as a result thereof;

(c) whether the owners of the companies involved in adulteration are strictly punished;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the measures taken to check tax evasion caused through such activities;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955 have been enacted to prevent adulteration in food stuffs and to save consumers from frauds and deceptions. The standards of various food articles have been prescribed in Appendix 'B' of the said rules. Food articles sold in the markets are required to conform to the specifications laid down under PFA Rules, 1955. The implementation of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955 is entrusted with the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. The enforcement staff of the States/U.T. draw random samples of various food articles from time to time to check adulteration in food commodities and action is taken against the offenders where the samples do not conform to the prescribed standards or do not conform to various provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955. There is no provision in PFA Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955 to compensate for loss of lives and properties.

(c) to (e) Action is taken under Section 16 of the PFA Act, 1954 where samples are not found to be conforming to the PFA standards, against all persons found responsible for conduct of business of a company or the person nominated under section 17(2) of the PFA Act, 1954. The offenders are awarded punishment by the courts ranging from six months to life imprisonment with fine depending upon the gravity of offence.

(f) This Act is not concerned with tax evasion.

(g) and (h) Does not arise.

Removal of hospitals from CGHS list

2678. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS has removed several big private hospitals recently from its approved list resulting in lot of inconveniences to the Central Government employees and other CGHS beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken to include all major private hospitals in the country in the CGHS approved list; and

(d) if not, the steps that are being taken by CGHS to set up its own hospitals in all parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.